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ABSTRACT

Quotations about the importance of and need for foreign language teaching and learning by well-known U. S. politicians, college and university presidents, religious leaders, and government officials are presented. Those quoted include: (1) J. M. Leslie; (2) E. Nyquist; (3) J. M. Hester; (4) C. B. Saunders; (5) L. White, Jr.; (6) H. Humphrey; (7) Rabbi G. Ende; (8) J. W. Fulbright; (9) M. Wilson; (10) M. Shapp; (11) R. M. Nixon; (12) L. F. Kimball; (13) R. J. Henle; (14) C. Pilgrim; (15) G. Meany; and (16) G. McGovern. (PMP)

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QUOTABLE QUOTES ON THE VALUE OF LANGUAGE STUDY

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OFFICE OF INFORMATION, PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

FL006545

New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers

September 1974

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The material in this section was solicited by Theodore Nuzzi of Francis Lewis High School and Joseph A. Tursi of the State University of New York at Stony Brook on behalf of the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers.

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1974

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Mr. Robert J. Ludwig
1102 Ardsley Road
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"It is my conviction that no person can claim to be well educated or civilized without command of a second language. Equally it is my conviction that the study of foreign languages must begin at the earliest possible stage of childhood when such learning can have the greatest impact at the most impressionable time of life. Beyond this, I am also convinced that we live in a world where at least one second la..guage will become an increasingly indispensable tool for all of our citizens. And, I am convinced furthermore that our children should have the widest possible choice of foreign languages to study."

Steven Muller, President, The Johns Hopkins University

"I agree with you as to the importance of strengthening and enriching our foreign language programs with the aim of improving communications among people of all nations. And in this regard your efforts have my full support."

Edward M. Kennedy, United States Senator

"I feel that it is important in the education of our youth to study languages of other nations in order to achieve a balanced education. It is my feeling that the study of modern and foreign languages will not only help the student to communicate with peoples of other lands but will also enhance the person's knowledge of the English language. I think that it is important for our young people to have foreign language in high school and to have at least a minimum requirement of foreign language in all curricula at the college and university level."

H. F. Robinson, Provost, Purdue University

"As well as the growth in international trade which you and President Nixon both cite, recent movements in our nation have pointed out the growing feeling which exists in people of diverse national backgrounds to become familiar with and retain part of their own national heritage. This movement in itself I regard as an extremely healthy development in our nation and for the world in general. I hope that in the future, foreign language teaching will receive the same sort of specialized attention and recognition from Congress. You may be assured that I shall keep this in mind as legislative initiatives in the field of education come before me in the Senate."

Edmund S. Muskie, United States Senator

"Knowledge of a foreign language is the bridge of understanding between one people and another. That knowledge enables one to communicate not only on a mind-to-mind basis but also on a heart-to-heart basis. If we truly wish to embark upon an era of world understanding and peace, then we must be prepared to know our neighbor's language and not rely solely on his knowing ours. The teaching of a foreign language, whether it begins at the elementary level or in high school, is essential to this understanding and should be encouraged and nurtured."

Jacob K. Javits, United States Senator

"In this time of national retrenchment and uncertainty we have decided that we, as a college, must take an affirmative lead in the reinvigoration of our profession. As a classicist I am in natural sympathy with your resolution: as a president I have taken positive steps to see that foreign language teaching will continue to flourish at Middlebury."

James I. Armstrong, President, Middlebury College

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY
AND COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12224

Thursday
March 7
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Dr. Gladys Lipton, President
New York State Association of
Foreign Language Teachers
Bureau of Foreign Languages
New York City Board of Education
131 Livingston Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Dear Dr. Lipton:

On the occasion of National and New York State Foreign Language Week, April 1-8, 1974, I should like to reaffirm the State Education Department's commitment to the promotion of quality foreign language programs in the public and nonpublic schools of New York State.

Foreign language instruction is a realistic need in New York State which serves as an international center for world trade, social and governmental affairs. Foreign language study prepares the many Americans who travel abroad for effective communication with people in other lands. It provides skills which help young people qualify for interesting and unique career opportunities at home and abroad. Knowledge of the language and culture of others helps to build compassion and understanding for our fellow human beings throughout the world.

For these reasons, I share the belief that foreign language learning should begin as early as possible and continue through the adult years. I applaud the schools and foreign language teachers of New York State for their excellent programs. I look forward to lasting cooperation between the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers and the State Education Department in reaching our mutual goals in behalf of foreign language study.

Faithfully yours,

Ewald B. Nyquist

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"Knowledge of foreign languages and cultural understanding is important in a pluralistic society such as ours. This knowledge and understanding is even more important as the peoples of the world establish closer ties. Continued technology in the field of communication and transportation have, in effect, made this a smaller world, making knowledge of foreign languages a requisite in order to communicate effectively and to understand and respect each other's cultural heritage."

John W. Leslie, Director, Office of Information, Publications and Reports, United States Department of Labor

"I believe that the lack of facility in the use of foreign language is one of the major educational deficits of the American people. I am in full agreement with the thrust of the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers in pointing out to the public the need for foreign language competence and a way of achieving that competence."

James M. Hester, President, New York University

"As you may know the Office of Education remains fully committed to the original challenge of the language development section of the National Defense Education Act of 1958 to correct the imbalances in the education system which have led to an insufficient number of Americans knowledgeable about other languages and areas. We appreciate your Association's demonstration of interest and commitment to an important and understudied area in American education, and wish to commend your continued efforts toward a multi-linguistic and culturally pluralistic society."

Charles B. Saunders Jr., Acting Assistant Secretary for Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

"To expect the educated citizens of other lands to learn English without our troubling to acquaint ourselves with some foreign tongue is the sort of effrontery which is ruining America's reputation and influence abroad."

Lynn White Jr., President, Mills College

"Rhetoric upon rhetoric has been churned out about the importance of communication for greater international understanding and, ultimately, for the construction of a world system of government. Surely, the basis of such a commitment must be the establishment of an intensive foreign language program as early as possible in American schools. This is not rhetoric; it is fact. I am, and have long been, devoted to this endeavor and will do all that I can to see that the status of foreign language programs in our schools is preserved and improved."

Hubert H. Humphrey, United States Senator

"If ever there was a time which required emphases on foreign languages as an integral part of the curriculum, this is the time."

Rabbi George Ende, Board of Jewish Education

"As you may know, I have made many efforts over the years to encourage the trend which you wish to see supported. I shall continue to do my best to uphold the need for foreign language training in our schools. I hope the cause you espouse will meet with a large measure of success. Thank you for contacting me on this subject."

J. William Fulbright, United States Senator

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PROCLAMATION

State of New York

Executive Chamber

A key tool in the development of international understanding is the knowledge of other languages.

New York fosters greater understanding among people of the world through its school system, which places strong emphasis upon the development of foreign language skills.

In addition, the Empire State has a multitude of speakers who make practical use of their foreign language skills in the professions, the arts, and the commercial and industrial worlds.

It is fitting that special recognition be given to the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers, which sponsors and inspires foreign language programs in schools and colleges in every city and town of the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Malcolm Wilson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim March 31 - April 6, 1974, as

FOREIGN LANGUAGE WEEK

in New York State.

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GIVEN under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this fifteenth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-four.

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Malcolm Wilson

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"I agree with you wholeheartedly in the importance of international understanding, the existence of cultural, commercial and industrial interdependence among countries of the world and the pressing need for a knowledge of the languages and cultures of other peoples."

Milton J. Shapp, Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

"I want to thank you for your letter of January 11, in which you rightly point out the important role that foreign language study will play in the emerging era of negotiations and peaceful international relationships. The youth of today will live in an age of unparalleled international exchange and cooperation, and those who have studied a foreign language will be better prepared to help this nation work with others to build a better future for mankind."

Richard M. Nixon, President

"A widening and an intensification of the teaching and study of foreign languages is little short of a national necessity."

Lindsley Fiske Kimball, Vice President, Rockefeller Foundation

"For many years I have been a strong advocate of the study of modern foreign languages by Americans. I believe that in a world like ours not only intercommunication, but cultural understanding, depend for a large measure on our knowledge of the languages of importance. It is extremely difficult for anybody to enter into another culture without mastering the fundamental cultural instrument, namely, its language. Moreover, from the standpoint of personal development, there are very few studies which give so much of a new dimension to an individual's personality as the mastery of a foreign language. I have argued, therefore, that any educated person should have the working mastery of at least one foreign language. Anyone looking to national and international leadership ought to master at least two foreign languages at a high level of achievement."

R. J. Henle, S. J., President, Georgetown University

"UPA has always supported the teaching of foreign language in our schools. We would encourage the Board of Education and the Community School Boards to strengthen the language offerings on all levels and to encourage our children to explore the advantages of the study of foreign languages."

Charles Pilgrim, President, United Parents Association

"I am happy to express my support for the teaching of foreign languages in the secondary schools. The study of foreign language not only enriches our appreciation of cultural diversity but enhances our sense of the integrity of the human family. It can strengthen our respect for the inherent worth of all peoples and their equal rights to the freest and fullest development of their own political, social and economic institutions."

George Meany, President, AFL-CIO

"As you noted, the need for trained personnel with a foreign language capability is increasing in both the public and private sector. This trend will undoubtedly continue as we expand our markets abroad and meet our international commitments."

George McGovern, United States Senator

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Office of the Mayor
CITY OF NEW YORK

Proclamation

NEW YORK CITY IS A MULTI-LINGUAL, MULTI-CULTURAL CITY. IT IS AN INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR BUSINESS AND TRADE.

NEW YORK CITY IS THE HOST TO WORLD-RENOWNED FIGURES IN THE ARTS AND IT IS THE HOME OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THUS, OUR CITY PROVIDES A WELCOME FOR TRAVELERS FROM NEAR AND FAR, MANY OF WHOM SPEAK LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH.

OUR BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFERS THE LARGEST AND MOST DIVERSE FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAM IN THE COUNTRY IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, FILLING A GENUINE NEED FOR NEW YORKERS.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM D. BEAME, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE WEEK OF APRIL 1-8, 1974, AS

"FOREIGN LANGUAGE WEEK"

IN NEW YORK CITY, AND ASK ALL CITIZENS TO RECOGNIZE THE VITAL ROLE FOREIGN LANGUAGES PLAY IN HELPING TO UNDERSTAND OUR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK TO BE AFFIXED.

Abraham D. Beame

MAYOR, THE CITY OF NEW YORK